

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/130,818

Examiner

David L. Robertson

Applicant(s)

TANAKA ET AL.

Art Unit

2186

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the RCE, IDS and Amendment filed 3/8/04 and the Amendments of 07/22/04 and 08/13/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 28-31, now 1-4, respectively.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 08 March 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 03/08/2004
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
Combined
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

COMBINED
REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE
AND
EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance:

The art of record does not teach or suggest dividing a non-volatile semiconductor memory into two separate zones (claim 28) or sets (claim 30) and creating an address translation table (i.e., table for managing corresponding relationships) for only the first zone or set until a request is made for a logical block not included in the table, at which time a second table is generated for the second zone or set. This would allow the address translation table to be smaller than would be required to include translation information for the complete memory; however, there would be portions of the memory that are not described by the table. When there is a request for a logical block not within the zone described by the table, a new table is prepared that includes the information for the requested logical block.

Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 32-40.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with William H. Wright on September 27, 2004.

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Additional Comments

With respect to the Examiner's amendment, as noted in the telephone conversation, independent claims 32 and 38 have § 112 second paragraph issues and/or are directed to different inventions than had previously been claimed. For example, claim 32 recites a previously unclaimed or unclear relationship that the data storage capacity of the physical blocks is equal or larger than the storage capacity of the logical blocks and claim 38 recites a table where one logical block address entry is mapped to an address that corresponds to two or more physical blocks, etc.

With respect to the information disclosure statement, the Japanese patent document 10-049644 does not appear to have been submitted, therefore it has not been considered. Additionally, because there is no apparent nexus between the Abstracts of the remaining cited Japanese prior art and the current claims, it would be improper to indicate consideration of the foreign language documents absent a concise statement of relevance. Note that none of the remaining Japanese documents cited herein appear to also be cited in the search report submitted. Therefore, only the English language abstracts of the remaining Japanese patent documents have been considered.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably **accompany** the Issue Fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the technology center receptionist whose telephone number is **(703) 305-3900**.

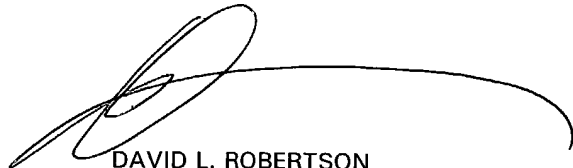
Direct any inquiries concerning drawing review to the Drawing Review Branch (703) 305-8404.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David L. Robertson whose telephone number is (703) 305-3825.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matt Kim, can be reached at 305-3821. **The fax number for Official communications is (703) 872-9306.**

Communications which are not application specific may also be posted on e-mail at *David.Robertson@USPTO.gov*.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'D' followed by a horizontal line that curves upwards at the end.

DAVID L. ROBERTSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 2186

September 27, 2004